

CLAIMS

✓ 1. A development environment for producing a platform-language constellation of printer description files, comprising:

- 5 at least one base printer description (PPD) text file for a single language and a single platform combination for a particular printer; and
a PPD generator connected to import said at least one base PPD and to generate therefrom a plurality of PPD files for a variety of languages and platforms.

10 2. The development environment of Claim 1, further comprising:
at least one build file that describes a product or platform specific set of features of said base PPD.

✓ 3. A method for generating an original set of printer description (PPD) text files, the
15 method comprising the steps of:

- providing at least one base PPD text file for a single language and a single platform combination for a particular printer;
providing at least one build file that describes a product or platform specific set of features of said base PPD; and
20 generating at least one set of PPD files from said base PPD and said build file.

✓ 4. A method for revising an original set of printer description (PPD) text files, the
method comprising the steps of:

- beginning with at least one base PPD and at least one build file that are
25 responsible for generating at least one PPD file for at least one specific target environment;
modifying said at least one base PPD and/or said at least one build file into corresponding revised PPD and/or build files; and
generating a revised set of PPD files from said revised base PPD and/or build file.

30 ✓ 5. A method for manufacturing printer description (PPD) text files, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing at least one base PPD;
providing at least one build file;
35 generating at least one set of PPD files from said base PPD and said build file.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

beginning with a base PPD and a build file that is responsible for generating a set of printer description (PPD) text files;

modifying said base PPD and/or said build file into a revised base PPD and/or a revised build file; and

generating a revised set of PPD files from said base PPD and said build file.

7. A development environment for producing a platform-language constellation of printer description files, comprising:

at least one base printer description (PPD) text file for a single language and a

single platform combination for a particular printer; and

a PPD generator connected to import said at least one base PPD file and to generate therefrom a plurality of PPD files for a variety of languages and platforms.

8. The development environment of Claim 7, further comprising:
at least one build file.

9. The development environment of Claim 8, wherein:

said PPD generator parses said at least one base PPD and said at least one build file into text based instructions that are parsed and assembled by PostScript® printer drivers.

10. A method for generating an original set of printer description (PPD) text files, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one base PPD;

providing at least one build file of text that describes a set of special features associated with a particular printer when used in one particular platform environment;

generating at least one PPD text file based upon information provided by said base PPD and said build file.

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